(c) the steps Government have taken to prevent the wastage of natural gas by flaring ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) At present around 4.4 Million Cubic Metre per day (MMSCMD) of natural gas is being flared, on an average, in all the oil and gas fields, both offshore and onland. Low pressure/ unutilized gas needs to be burnt, *i.e.* flared, keeping in view the safe operation of plants, safety of nearby areas and protection of the environment. This is so because if vented in the atmosphere, the unflared gas would pose a safety hazard and also create more pollution. In order to reduce gas flaring to the minimum practicable, the oil and gas producing companies are taking various measures, such as low pressure gas recovery, replacement of flaring systems, flare gas recovery and operational modifications.

Closure of gas cylinder manufacturing companies

†2390. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several gas cylinder manufacturing companies in the country are on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government are considering to take any steps to save them from closure ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) In order to procure the LPG cylinders at competitive rates, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies floated the tenders. The placement of order on the tenderers depends upon their qualification as per the terms and conditions of the tender. It is likely that some of the cylinder manufacturing units may not get the orders from the Oil Marketing Companies, if they do not qualify as per tender terms and conditions.

Allocation and supply of natural gas

2391. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA' : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.